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REPORT

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

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SUBJECT Vulko Chervenkov People's Military
Engineer School in Svishtov

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

- 25X1 1. Each branch of service in the Bulgarian army currently operates its own officer
25X1 candidate school instead of depending upon one general military academy to
25X1 supply the required number of officers. The Military Academy continues to
25X1 function only as an advanced school, drawing its student body from among
officers on active duty.
2. Since the beginning of 1951, infantry officers schools have been in operation
in Turnovo and Levski; an artillery officers school has been in operation in
Ruse; and the Engineer Officers School [] has been in operation in
Svishtov. []
3. All of the above-mentioned officers schools combine courses for regular army
and reserve officers and also operate refresher courses for reserve personnel,
both non-commissioned officers and officers, called back for temporary active
duty.
4. The Narodno Voennno Inzhinerno Uchilishte, Vulko Chervenkov (Vulko Chervenkov
People's Military Engineer School) in Svishtov, is located east of the city
along the Danube River in the barracks formerly occupied by 33 Infantry Regi-
ment.
5. The following is a list of the four different sections of the School, in-
cluding the complement, as of the summer of 1951:
- 25X1 a. School for Regular Army Officer Candidates, 180 cadets in three companies []
25X1 []

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25X1

-2-

- 25X1 b. School for Reserve Officer Candidates, 80 cadets in one company []
- 25X1 []
- 25X1 c. Refresher Course for Reserve Officers, 60 students, ages 22 to 50, in one company [] and
- 25X1 d. Refresher Course for Reserve Non-Commissioned Officers, 90 students, ages 22 to 50, in one company []
6. The course for regular army officers lasts three years; the reserve officers course lasts nine months; the reserve officers refresher course lasts 30 days; and the reserve non-commissioned officers refresher course lasts 45 days.
- 25X1 7. The reserve officers refresher course [] lasted one month and consisted of both theoretical and practical training.
- a. Theoretical training was given eight hours a day for the duration of the course; the training schedule was as follows:
- | | |
|---|---|
| Garrison service | 5 or 6 hours |
| Internal service | 5 or 6 hours |
| Discipline | 5 or 6 hours |
| Water supply | 8 hours |
| Military bridges | 24 hours (including both theoretical and practical) |
| Military roads | 16 hours (including both theoretical and practical) |
| Infantry tactics | 30 hours (including both theoretical and practical) |
| Engineer tactics | 50 hours (including both theoretical and practical) |
| Mine-laying and mine-clearing | 40 hours (including both theoretical and practical) |
| Fortifications | 40 hours (including both theoretical and practical) |
| Camouflage | 10 or 12 hours (including both theoretical and practical) |
| Demolitions and Obstacles | 25 hours (including both theoretical and practical) |
| Explosives | 10 hours |
| Topography | 30 hours (including both theoretical and practical) |
| Political indoctrination | 30 hours |
- b. Practical training was given concurrently with the theoretical training during both day and night; nighttime training included mine-laying and mine-clearing practiced over a period of eight nights, and troop movement with the aid of a compass on three occasions for a total of 8 to 10 hours; daytime training included the following:
- | | |
|---|---------|
| Close Order Drill | 3 hours |
| Field trip to Belene to observe a 100-ton capacity Soviet iron bridge | 5 hours |
| Mine-laying | 6 hours |

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25X1

-3-

Attack on a defended hill, followed
 by defense of the hill 9 hours
 Demolition of a wooden bridge. 6 hours
 Firing on the range. Unspecified
 Practice with hand grenades. Unspecified

8. Firing on the range was done for the twofold purpose of familiarizing the students with newly acquired Soviet weapons which have replaced the various weapons used by the Bulgarian army until recently, and of checking on the students' handling of weapons. All targets were of the silhouette type showing the head and body. The following weapons were fired by all students:
 - a. The Vintovka rifle, which replaced the Manlicher rifle, was fired five times on the 100-meter range and five times on the 200-meter range;
 - b. A Soviet machine-pistol;³ and
 - c. The Star, Parabelum, and Soviet pistols at 50- and 100-meter ranges, five rounds each for each range.
9. The basic Engineer unit, the squad, has been streamlined and now numbers 10 men instead of 17.
10. Flame-throwers have been taken from the Engineers and given to the Chemical Corps.
11. All weapons have been replaced with weapons of Soviet manufacture. New anti-personnel and antitank mines which have wooden casings to make them immune to existing mine-detecting devices are now being used exclusively.
12. Some of the traditional duties of the Engineers now come within the province of the Infantry. Trench lines, earthenworks, fortified gun emplacements, antitank and antipersonnel road blocks and obstacles, observation posts and bunkers, all formerly constructed by the Engineers are now being constructed by either Trudovak or Infantry units. Within infantry regiments, the Engineer Platoon acts in a supervisory capacity when the above-mentioned types of construction are undertaken and is also charged with mining the area defended by the regiment. However, large scale mine-laying and mine-clearing operations come within the purview of the duties of the engineering units. In war, the engineer units also demolish obstacles put up by the enemy.
13. As part of wartime offensive tactics, the Engineers are also used for mining the areas in the immediate vicinity of enemy units. Such mine-laying activities take place at night and are carried out by the same personnel that make a reconnaissance of this area in daylight.
14. The infantry regiment's Engineer Platoon is equipped with 100 antitank mines, 200 antipersonnel mines, 100 kilograms of TNT, 60 primers, and 160 meters of primer cord which it uses both offensively and defensively. On the offensive, the Platoon escorts the Regiment's tanks, and, in case of an attack, immediately mines the area around the tanks. On the defensive, attempts are made to mine all approaches, erect antitank obstacles, and demolish all bridges, roads, and railroads which fall within the lines of approaches. In order to do the most efficient job, the Engineers are also taught how to infiltrate enemy lines for

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25X1

-4-

reconnaissance purposes; however, this reconnaissance is made only for the purpose of collecting information about bridges, roads, railroads, and places suitable for the construction of obstacles.

15. At present the Engineers are divided into three component units as follows:
 - a. Engineering Operations Units, VOS-37;
 - b. Bridge Building Units, VOS-38;
 - c. Technical Units, VOS-39.⁴
16. Special emphasis was placed on the night exercises, particularly in mine-laying and mine-clearing under cover of darkness..
17. The Engineer units are all receiving instructions in the use of a new Soviet heavy iron bridge capable of carrying 100 tons and wide enough for 2-way traffic.
18. According to the instructions given in the Engineer School, the Signal Company of the Rifle Regiment is equipped with nine portable 2-way radios each of which weighs 40 kilograms. Of these, only five or six are used during peacetime, while the rest are kept in storage.
19. Regarding Turkey, reserve officers were taught the following: Turkey today has some 1,500,000 men under arms, mostly in the infantry, although there are 12 Armored Divisions. Turks wear green-colored United States uniforms and are equipped with British weapons. Discipline is bad. Numerous new airfields are being built throughout the country and the Americans are defending the Straits.
20. Political indoctrination stressed the part played by the Soviet army in bringing the People's Democracy to Bulgaria. Articles written against the Western Democracies, especially the United States and Britain, were continually read to the students. The success of the Soviet army and the Chinese Communists was stressed as were the "pitiful state of the Western European countries, the crisis in the United States, the United States debacle in Korea and the cruelty of Tito's reactionary regime." The power and glory of the Bulgarian Communist Party also received its full measure of praise.
21. An unidentified infantry border battalion (sic) was also located in Svishtov. All garrison duties at the Engineer School, such as guard duty, were performed by personnel supplied by the "infantry border battalion." Of the students, only the Regular Army Officers School cadets shared in the garrison duties with the personnel from the "infantry border battalion."
22. The following is a list of personnel at the School:

- 25X1 a. Colonel Stoimenov, Commanding Officer of the School, a Regular Army officer,
[redacted]
- 25X1 b. Major Tsolo Kolev, Deputy Commanding Officer and Political Officer of the
School, [redacted]
- 25X1 [redacted]

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25X1

-5-

- 25X1 c. Major Velkov, Chief of the Political Indoctrination Department of the School [redacted]
- 25X1 d. Captain Mayrov, Aide-de-Camp; [redacted]
- 25X1 e. Lieutenant Colonel Nikolov, Commanding Officer of the Reserve Officers Refresher Course Company, [redacted]
- 25X1 f. Senior First Lieutenant Georgiev, Deputy Commanding Officer and Political Officer of the Reserve Officers Refresher Course Company, [redacted]
- 25X1 g. Major Marinov, [redacted]
- 25X1 h. Lieutenant Colonel Yonchev, [redacted]
- 25X1 i. Captain Nasalevski, [redacted]
- 25X1 j. Captain Rukhchev, [redacted]
- 25X1 k. Captain Pishev, [redacted]
- 25X1 l. Captain Kitanov, as a first lieutenant was a platoon commander of 1 Army Engineering Regiment in Sofia in 1943 and 1944 [redacted]
- 25X1 m. Captain Kolev, [redacted]
- 25X1 n. Captain Kerpachev, [redacted]
- 25X1 o. Senior First Lieutenant Angelov, [redacted]
- 25X1 p. Lieutenant Colonel Stemenov, Commanding Officer of an unidentified engineering battalion of 1 Army Engineer Regiment in Sofia in 1944, [redacted]
- 25X1 q. Lieutenant Colonel Anastasov, Medical Officer of the School, [redacted]
- 25X1 r. Major Strashimirov, [redacted]

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25X1

-6-

25X1

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Comment:

the same instructors are used for all the

courses.

3. Comments: Probably the PPS model 1943 submachine gun, five rounds each, single fire, at 50- and 100-meter ranges; and 12 rounds each, automatic fire, at 50- and 100-meter ranges.

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